over the increasing hold of western countries over the knowledge of Herbal medicines;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) by when Government would take effective steps in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government have already taken step to establish Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) which will made available the Ayurvedic knowledge of the medicinal use of plants already in the public domain, in patent compatible format in order to prevent the grant of Patent for claims which are neither inventions nor discoveries. Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) for 35,000 formulations will be completed soon.

New Medical Colleges

2664. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the number of new Medical Colleges to be sanctioned by the MCI during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): Seven new medical colleges have so far been permitted by the Central Government on the recommendations of Medical Council of India during the current financial year. In addition, 18 proposals are pending with the Government/Medical Council of India. Out of 18 pending proposals, Letter of Intent have been issued in 7 cases and 11 proposals are at various stages of consideration with the Government of India/Medical Council of India. No assurance can be given for clearance of these proposals as clearance of these proposals depend upon fulfilment of qualifying criteria prescribed in the "Establishment of Medical College Regulation, 1999", availability of infrastructure facilities and recommendation of the Medical Council of India thereon.

News-item "No cure for fake Medicines"

2665. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news

report captioned "No cure for fake medicines", which appeared in the "Times of India" dated the 14th July, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to tackle the problem of fake medicines in the country which has assumed serious proportions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news-item has dealt on matters concerning protracted litigations, cases of spurious drugs detected and filed, punishment awarded, easy bail, inadequate regulatory infrastructure etc.

As per the feedback available from the Drugs Control Administration, Delhi, some of the reported details are not factually correct *viz.* (1) Samples of drugs namely Durabulin injection and Tedral tablets were taken in the year 1968 and were found to be adulterated and misbranded respectively. The cases are *subjudice.* (2) Three samples of Liver extract injection were found to be of sub-standard quality and in one of the samples, colour was found present and this was considered adulterated. These were not fake drugs. (3) Ramesh Kumar was prosecuted for manufacturing not of standard quality water for injection. It has been incorrectly represented that he was found manufacturing and selling of fake Dextrose injection.

(c) Since manufacture and sale of spurious drugs is mainly a clandestine activity, State Drug Control Organisations who are responsible to enforce the provisions of Drug and Cosmetic Act, 1940 and Rule made there under have been advised to adopt following guidelines:—

1. It has been recommended to set up/reactivate State Drugs Advisory Committee in which all stakeholders are partners, (b) Establishment of separate intelligence-cum-legal machinery with police assistance, (c) Speedy analysis of drug samples, (d) To undertake surveillance of suspected dealers, (e) To obtain cooperation of pharmaceutical industries, (f) To collect survey samples under National Survey Quality Evaluation of Drugs (NSQED) Programme.

2. Central Government have taken steps to augment the drugs testing facilities of State laboratories. This includes strengthening the

infrastructural facilities and improving the information system through computer networking which project is under implementation.

3. Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has specifically taken up the issue of combating the menace of manufacture and sale of spurious, adulterated and counterfeit drugs in the meeting of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare on 12-13 July, 2001. It was resolved that special attention is required to be given to monitor illegal activities by a special intelligence cell in the respective Drugs Control Organisation and in seeking cooperation of pharma industry, the trade, as well as the police.

4. Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of DGHS to examine the extent of problem and suggest remedial measures. Committee report has been submitted and being examined.

High Court order on Baba Mastnath Dental College, Rohtak

2666. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 348 given in the Rajya Sabha dated 4th March, 2002 and state:

(a) whether Punjab and Haryana High Court has given any interim/ final order in the CWP No. 6054 of 2001 regarding Baba Mastnath Dental College Asthal Bohar, Rohtak, Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any action having in view the future of the students; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The Hon'ble Division Bench of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh *vide* its order dated 1.8.2002 in CWP No. 6540 of 2001 has directed the Vice Chancellor Maharishi Dayanand University Rohtak, Secretary Medical Education, Secretary Finance and Director Medical Education, Government of Haryana and Principal of BRS Dental College, Kotbilla and DAV Dental College,